Dedicated to Preserving San Jose's Architectural Heritage

November 10, 2010

Envision 2040 Task Force 200 East Santa Clara Street San Jose, CA 95113

Envision 2040 Task Force Members:

We are pleased to provide the following comments regarding the proposed language about historic preservation in the Envision 2040 General Plan document.

The draft Envision 2040 plan shows greater depth and sensitivity in dealing with historic preservation than previous plans. It is gratifying to see the importance that has been placed on preserving and protecting our historic structures and neighborhoods.

The following are our comments as indicated by the section numbers:

- LU-11.11 This is one of several places where the importance of updating the inventory of historic resources is mentioned. We agree that completing the inventory is a critical component of a successful historic preservation program and we encourage the continued support for the surveys to be completed.
- LU-11.18 We would look forward to partnering in exploring the possibility of a grant program for historic preservation.
- LU-11.19 We strongly support highlighting the importance of historic resources by identifying areas on the land use/transportation diagram as Areas of Historic Sensitivity. This overlay will be utilized as an integral component of the General Plan.

We expect that the Areas of Historic Sensitivity overlay will be completed and usable by the time of adoption of the Envision 2040 document in June 2011.

- LU-11.21 We believe implementing the suggested General Plan and zoning changes will greatly assist in the protection of our historic neighborhoods.
- LU-12.2 Including density in this section is very important to ensure that development around our historic neighborhoods remains compatible with existing construction.

We are especially pleased that it appears that the 2-Acre Rule and other discretionary alternative uses have been eliminated from Envision 2040. This is important to further protect the historic character of our neighborhoods.

In addition to our own comments, PAC*SJ is very supportive of the comments in the Historic Landmarks Commission's letter to the Task Force dated October 25, 2010.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft language of the Envision 2040 General Plan Update. We appreciate the hundreds of hours of hard work that everyone involved in this lengthy and comprehensive process has contributed.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Grayson
Executive Director